

DTG Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 OCT 2004

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	Application #	New US Application
	Confirmation #	
	Filing Date	10/8/04
	First Inventor	GELARDI et al.
	Art Unit	
	Examiner	
	Docket #	ME186 OME15

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

**This IDS is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97-1.98 and includes the following:**

- ☒ A listing of the references on PTO-1449.
- ☒ A copy of references which have come to applicant's attention.
- ☒ Note: this application was filed or entered the national stage after June 30, 2003 so copies of the US patent(s) and/or published application(s) are not enclosed/required.
- ☒ A copy of the PCT/ISR which has just been issued and which explains the relevance of the references noted therein.
- ☐ A separate explanation of relevance.

**Please note the following particulars concerning the filing of this IDS:**

- ☒ This IDS is filed **within three months** of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR. §1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination, whichever event occurs last.

☐ This IDS is filed **after a first action**, but before a final action, allowance, or any other action which closes prosecution, **and**:

☐ is accompanied by a payment in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

**or**

☐ I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☐ I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☐ An appropriate statement is attached.

..... This IDS is filed **after** a final action or allowance, but on/before payment of the issue fee, and:  
..... is accompanied by a payment in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

and

..... I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

..... I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.

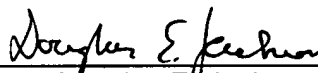
..... An appropriate statement is attached.

..... This IDS does not comply with 37 CFR 1.97-1.98, and is being filed **for placement in the file** pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97(i)

☒ ..... If no payment is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the payment enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due with this communication to Deposit Account No. 12-0555.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/6/04

  
By: Douglas E. Jackson  
Registration No.: 28518

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Customized PTO/SB/08a-b (08-03)

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

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First Inventor	Gelardi, et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner	
Docket #	ME186-0ME15

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initial*	Document No. Number - Kind	Publ. Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name Patentee or Applicant	Relevance Passages/Figs.
	US-4,635,797	1/13/87	BANKIER	
	US-4,488,645	12/18/84	YAMAGUCHI	
	US-			
	US-			
	US-			
	US-			
	US-			
	US-			
	US-			
	US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initial*	DOCUMENT Country-Number-Kind	Publ. Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name Patentee or Applicant	Relevance Passages/Figs.	Trans- lation
	DE 89 13 431 U	12/28/89	EBENER		
	EP 8 928 748	7/14/99	COSMETECH EUROP SA		

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initial*	Include NAME of the author (in CAPS), Title of Article/Item, Date, Page(s), Volume-Issue No., Publisher, City and/or Country where published	Trans- lation
	Patent Abstract of Japan, vol 1998, no. 10, 8/31/98; Takeuchi Kogyo KK; JP 16 113226, abstract (figures 1-4)	
	Patent Abstract of Japan, vol 1998, no. 89, 7/31/98; Pias Arise KK; JP 10 085033, abstract (figure 5)	

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

\* Examiner: Initial if considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.